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9 April 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Sherman Kent

SUBJECT: Staff Memorandum #20-57: The Indian Elections

If you feel inclined to debate with Bob about our memo on the Indian elections, I think the following points fully justify the memo.

- a. In paragraphs 1 and 2, the memo deals with whether any new NIE is necessary, and whether we adequately predicted the state of the Congress Party in the last NIE. Neither point was or could be covered in the OCI article.
- b. While paragraphs 3-7 dealing with the election itself are quite a bit more detailed -- and in my personal judgment -- more informative than the OCI article, after all the Board is not just an ordinary consumer.
- c. Paragraphs 8 and 9 cover the economic situation and major elements in the outlook, subjects covered in no more than a sentence in the OCI article and most germane in an ONE treatment of India.

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- would have had to follow the whole thing in this detail in any case so the writing of the memo, even in so far as it duplicated, could hardly have been more than 2-3 hours of his time.
- e. The plain fact is that the OCI article would not have met the Board's needs.

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Deputy Assistant Director National Estimates

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